



Massachusetts National Guard

Public Affairs

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News Release

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Fallen Soldier, Missing Since 1943, Returns to Commonwealth

MILFORD, Mass. – The remains of U.S. Army Air Corps 2nd Lt. Richard S. Ryrholm, missing since September 1943, will return home for proper burial on Saturday, June 18, 2011. Born in Boston on September 9, 1923 and raised in Arlington, Ryrholm served during WWII as a member of the 432nd Fighter Squadron, U.S. Army Air Corps.

On September 4, 1943, a P-38H-5 Lightning flew a patrol over Bena Bena-Saider area in present-day Papua New Guinea. Ryrholm was the pilot of the aircraft when it engaged enemy aircraft. When last contacted Ryrholm stated the Lightning was losing altitude and emitting smoke, one of the engines dead. The 432nd formed a search party but was unable to locate the downed aircraft or its pilot.

On July 21, 1949 the military declared 2nd Lt. Ryrholm non-recoverable. No significant activity occurred in the case for almost six decades. In 2005, while investigating another aircraft crash, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command learned of a P-38 wreckage site nearby. The nearly complete aircraft serial numbers correlated to Ryrholm's downed aircraft.

In April 2008, a JPAC Team returned to the crash site, surveyed the wreckage and believed the aircraft to be that of Ryrholm. In 2010, the JPAC team excavated the site, recovered personal effects and the remains of 2nd Lt. Ryrholm.

An interment service will be held Saturday, June 18, at 11 a.m., Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, 70 Medford Street, Arlington, MA.

Ryrholm had two brothers and two sisters all of whom served in the military during WWII. 2nd Lt. Ryrholm was the only sibling who did not return home - until this week. Ryrholm was not married and had no children. He is survived by eight cousins.

Media are asked to register at pallas.wahl@us.army.mil or (508) 233-7195

WHAT: Interment of 2LT Richard S. Ryrholm

WHERE: Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, 70 Medford Street, Arlington, MA.

WHEN: Saturday, June 18, 2011, 11 a.m.

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